

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicant will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action. However, before doing so, John Pokotylo would like to thank Examiner Rudy for courtesies extended during a telephone interview on October 19, 2005 (referred to as "the telephone interview") below. During the telephone interview, John Pokotylo noted that the Wallner patent did not disclose "maintenance" programs for POS terminals at the host. Although Examiner Rudy did not disagree with this position, he indicated that he would not give such a limitation much weight without a clearer definition of the POS "maintenance" programs in the claims. Claim 24 has been amended to recite the particulars of an independent maintenance center, connected to the host unit via a communications line, such as the one described on page 10, lines 3-27.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-10 and 13-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,696,909 ("the Wallner patent"). The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

Since claims 3, 4, 10, 18 and 22 have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot with respect to these claims.

Independent claims 1, 9, 13, and 14 have been amended to include the features of canceled claims 3 and 4. Specifically, data communicated is subjected to data quantity reduction and compression, and the data reduction and compression are performed in units of image data frames by comparing the present frame and immediately preceding frame of transferred data, only data recognized to have been changed with respect to the immediately preceding frame being compressed. Since the Wallner patent neither teaches, nor suggests, such features, these claims are not rendered obvious by the Wallner patent for at least this reason. Since claims 5-8, 16, 20 and 25 depend from claim 1, since claims 17 and 21 depend from claim 9, since claims 19, 23 and 27 depend from claim 13, and since claims 15 and 26 depend from claim 14, these claims are similarly not rendered obvious by the Wallner patent.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to more clearly recite that the maintenance center is provided independent of, and separate of, the host unit. As mentioned in the specification, this minimizes

enlargements of the host unit, and provides additional benefits. (See, e.g., page 10, lines 21-27.) To reiterate, during the telephone interview, John Pokotylo noted that the Wallner patent did not disclose "maintenance" programs for POS terminals at the host. Although Examiner Rudy did not disagree with this position, he indicated that he would not give such a limitation much weight without a clearer definition of the POS "maintenance" programs in the claims. Claim 24 has been amended to recite the particulars of an independent maintenance center, connected to the host unit via a communications line, and executes system maintenance, such as the one described on page 10, lines 3-27. Accordingly, claim 24 was not rendered obvious by the Wallner patent, and is now more clearly distinguished over the Wallner patent.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

February 13, 2006

By: Ronald Straub
Reg. No. 48,941
For: John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Tel.: (732) 542-9070

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **February 13, 2006** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Ronald Straub
Ronald Straub

48,941
Reg. No.